

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9882

S E C R E T AMMAN 7340

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP JO US
SUBJECT: PRINCESS BASMAH'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

1. PRINCESS BASMAH (KING HUSSEIN'S ONLY SISTER) CALLED CHARGE DEC 13 TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH A PRIVATE TRIP SHE IS PLANNING TO THE U.S. ON DECEMBER 17, TO LAST ABOUT A WEEK. SHE INDICATED THAT KING HUSSEIN IS AWARE OF HER PLANS.

2. PRINCESS BASMAH SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT DEPARTMENT HAVE SOMEONE MEET HER FLIGHT AT NEW YORK (KLM 643 AMSTERDAM-NEW YORK, ARRIVING KENNEDY AIRPORT 1915 FRIDAY, DEC 17) AND TO ASSIST HER THROUGH CUSTOMS, ETC. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT DEPARTMENT WILL ARRANGE VIP TREATMENT AND MINIMUM CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES, ETC. SHE AND HER HUSBAND WILL BE STAYING AT WALDORF.

3. PRINCESS ALSO SAID THAT HER HUSBAND, MAJOR TAYMUR DAGHISTANI (WHO IS ON A U.S. - SPONSORED MILITARY COURSE AT FT. KNOX, KENTUCKY) WILL ALSO MEET HER. SHE REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT CONTACT HIM AND COORDINATE DETAILS OF HER ARRIVAL WITH HIM. HE CAN BE REACHED AT FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBR IN HIS ROOM AT FT. KNOX: AREA CODE 502-624-1577, PREFERABLY EARLY IN THE MORNING PRIOR TO HIS CLASSES.

4. CHARGE ASKED IF PRINCESS WISHED TO INFORM JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR SALAH AND HER DESIRES REGARDING SECURITY PROTECTION. IN REPLY, SHE EMPHASIZED SHE DID NOT
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WANT TO "CAUSE A FUSS," THAT HER VISIT IS AN INFORMAL

ONE AND THAT SHE WISHES IT TO BE AS PRIVATE AS POSSIBLE.
SHE ALSO SAID THAT THE JORDANIAN MILITARY ATTACHE
GEN SHAFIQ JUMEAN HAS BEEN NOTIFIED AND SHE THEREFORE ASSUMES
THAT AMBASSADOR SALAH WILL BE AWARE OF HER VISIT, BUT SHE
DID NOT WISH TO UNDULY INCONVENIENCE JORDANIAN EMBASSY TO MEET
HER IN NEW YORK.

5. AS TO SECURITY, PRINCESS' MAIN CONCERN APPEARED TO BE THAT
ANY SECURITY NOT DISRUPT HER DESIRES FOR A
VERY PRIVATE VISIT AND REUNION WITH HER HUSBAND.

6. CHARGE INDICATED HE WOULD INFORM WASHINGTON OF HER
PLANS AND CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE BEFORE HER
DEPARTURE FROM JORDAN ON THURSDAY, DEC 16. SHE WAS
PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS FOR CONFIRMATION THAT COORDINATION
HAD BEEN INITIATED WITH HER HUSBAND MAJOR DAGHESTANI.

7. WE ASSUME THAT DEPARTMENT WILL WISH TO PROVIDE
WHATEVER ASSISTANCE AND SECURITY (PARTICULARLY DURING
NEW YORK PORTION OF VISIT) IT WOULD NORMALLY PROVIDE TO
A PERSON OF PRINCESS BASMAH'S RANK ON A PRIVATE VISIT TO
THE U.S. SINCE PRINCESS SEEMED LUKEWARM ABOUT IDEA OF
SECURITY (MAINLY BECAUSE OF ITS OBTRUSIVENESS) AND
ABOUT INFORMING JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR, WE SUGGEST
DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO WORK OUT VISIT ARRANGEMENTS
TO SATISFACTION OF MAJOR DAGHESTANI (WHO WOULD PROBABLY
CONTACT JORDANIAN EMBASSY) AND THEN INFORM US SO WE
CAN RELAY INFORMATION TO PRINCESS BASMAH.

9. PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY OF ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE
PRIOR TO THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16.
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